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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 USSS-00 SY-05 SS-15 SSO-00
PA-01 USIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00
AID-05 SCS-06 CA-01 NSCE-00 /068 W
----------018430 081653Z /43
O 081549Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6746

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC CASC PINS CO
SUBJ: STARR KIDNAPPING: EL ESPECTADOR NEWS REPORT

1. MARCH 8 EDITION OF BOGOTA DAILY "EL ESPECTADOR" CARRIES ARTICLE FILED BY A CORRESPONDENT IN NEIVA ENTITLED "RICHARD STARR CONTINUES HELD IN EL PATO". THE REPORT BEGINS BY SAYING THAT A RECENT STORY THAT RICHARD STARR HAD BEEN FREED AND FLOWN OUT OF THE COUNTRY ON A JAPANESE PLANE HAS PROVEN TO BE FALSE. IT COMMENTS THAT THE PLANE IN QUESTION APPEARS INSTEAD TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CONTRABAND ACTIVITY.

2. THE ARTICLE CONTINUES AS FOLLOWS: "A FARMER IN THE REGION OF EL PATO REVEALED TO THIS CORRESPONDENCE THAT THE BIOLOGIST RICHARD STARR REMAINS IN THE AREA UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ARMED REBELS, SPECIFICALLY IN THE HANDS OF A UNIT DIRECTED BY 'JOSELO'. T M FARMER SAID THAT THE FARC MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, WHICH INDICATES THAT THEY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN NEGOTIATING THE FREEDOM OF THE BIOLOGIST. THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO MORE THAN INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCANTY ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF STARR'S FAMILY, WHO HAVE DENIED THAT HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CIA. IT IS KNOWN THAT HE WORKED IN THE US AS A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR.

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3. "THE INFORMANT ALSO TOLD THE ESPECTADOR THAT THE PRISONER ENJOYS GOOD HEALTH AND THAT HIS PROLONGED STAY IN THE LOWER PATO AREA HAS PERMITTED HIM TO BECOME ACCLIMATIZED AND TO COPE WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE EASTERN CORDILLERA. THE FARC COMMAND HAS NOT TAKEN ANY DECISION ON RICHARD STARR'S FATE ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE PRACTICALLY DISCARDED THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS

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LIBERTY OR AT LEAST BEING ABLE TO EXCHANGE HIS RELEASE FRO SOME EXTREMIST LEADERS WHO ARE IN THE HANDS OF COLOMBIAN AS WELL AS NORTH AMERICAN JUSTICE. AS HAS BEEN ALREADY REPORTED, THE PC VOLUNTEER COMPLETED A YEAR OF CAPTIVITY ON FEB 14 OF THIS YEAR."

4. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE CORRESPONDENT WHO WROTE THE ABOVE ARTICLE IN AN ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY HIS SOURCES AND LEARN WHETHER HE HAS ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.
ASENCIO

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: ASEC, CASC, PINS, SOPN, CO, (STARR, RICHARD CHARLES)
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